

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims pending therein. Claims 1, 3 and 5–13 remain in the case. This amendment cancels claims 2, 4, 14 and 15 and adds new claim 16.

A request for drawing changes is submitted herewith to overcome the objections to the drawings. Changes are requested to FIGS. 1, 3–5, 10, 11 and 13 to delete reference characters shown in these drawings but not disclosed in the specification. Copies of these figures marked in red to show the changes are included with the request for changes along with replacement sheets in which the changes have been made. No other drawing changes have been made in the drawings. Therefore no new matter is included in the requested drawing changes.

In response to the objection to the claims for using language not consistent with the specification, applicant respectfully requests amendment of the specification to change several occurrences of “helix” to helical drive rod. The claims have been amended to change “actuator” to drive rod. The drawings show what had been referred to in the specification as a helix to be formed as a rod. Paragraph [0014] originally stated that the helix was a driver for an attached magnetic coupling. Paragraph [0015] refers to “the fractional turn helical driver.”


Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 4–11 as filed are directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 4 depended from claim 2, which depended from claim 1. The subject matter of claim 4 is presented in independent form herein by amending claim 1 to include the language of both claims 2 and 4. Claims 2 and 4 are therefore canceled.

New claim 16 combines the language of claims 1 and 4 to form a new independent claim. After studying the Official Action, the prior art and the

application, applicants believe that the combination of structural features of claims 1 and 4 as presented herein is patentable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. Therefore, applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance for the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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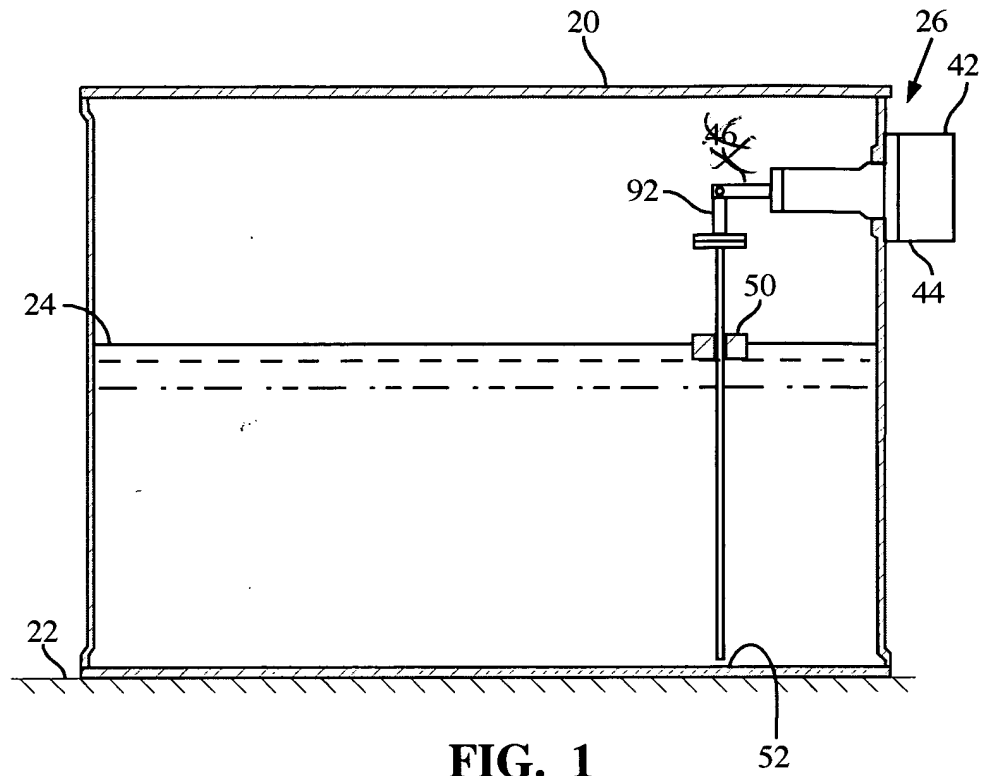


FIG. 1

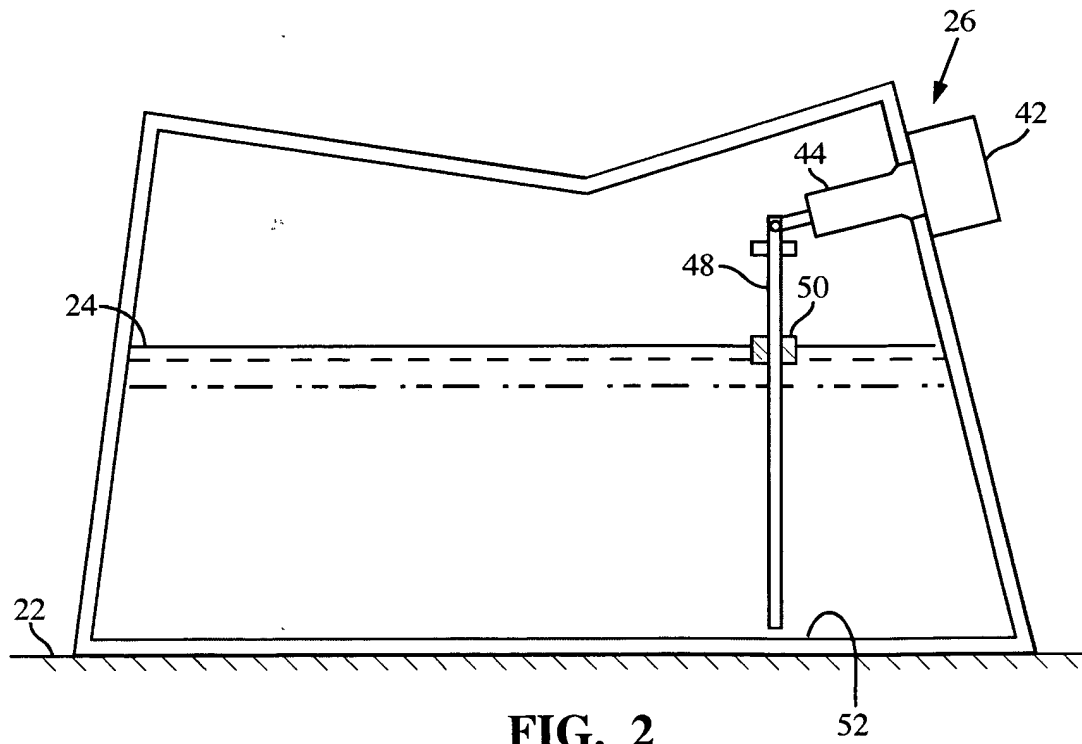


FIG. 2

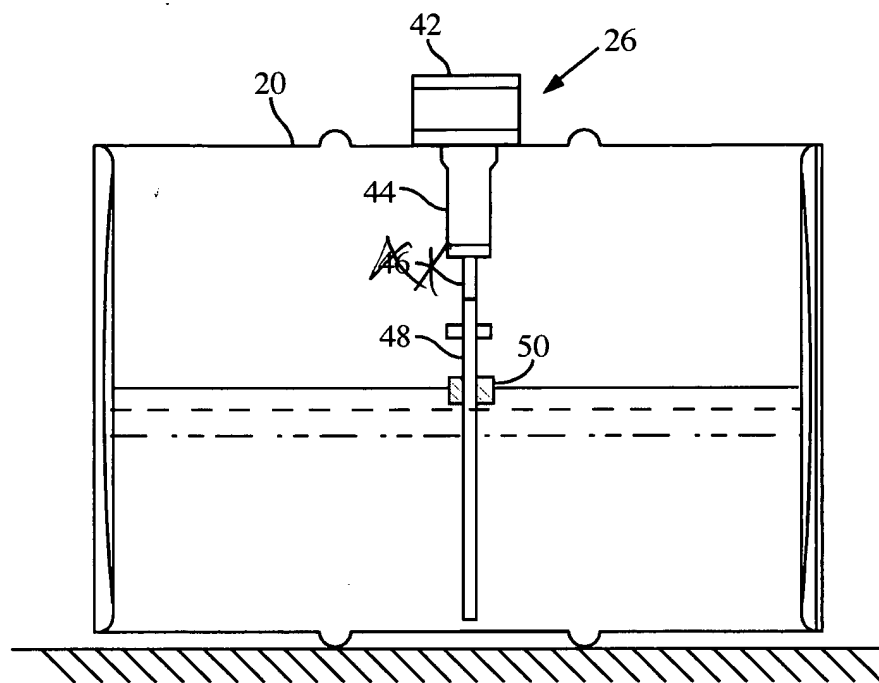


FIG. 3

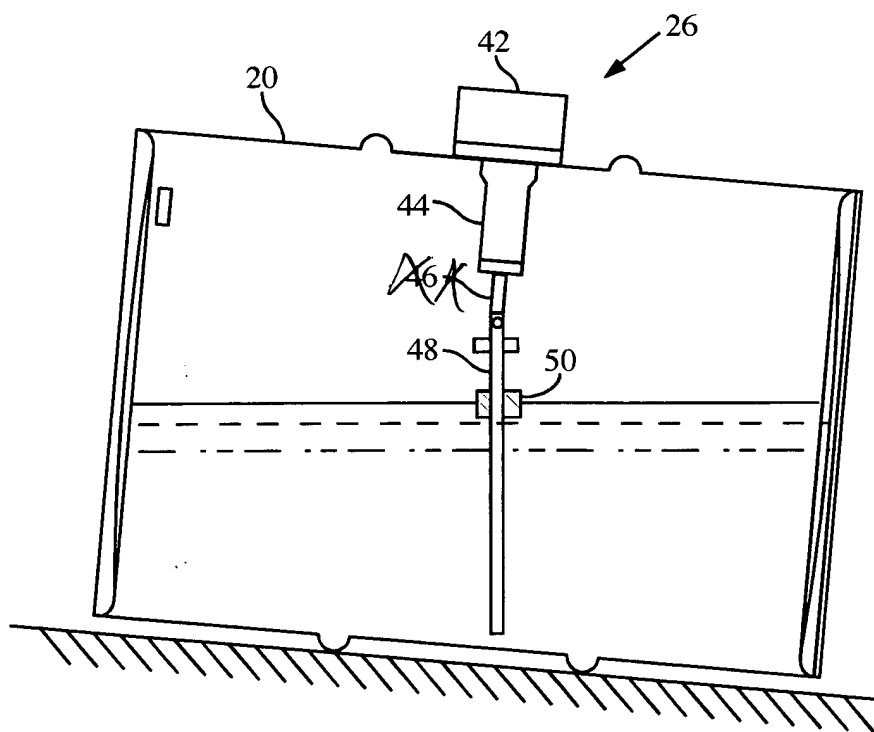
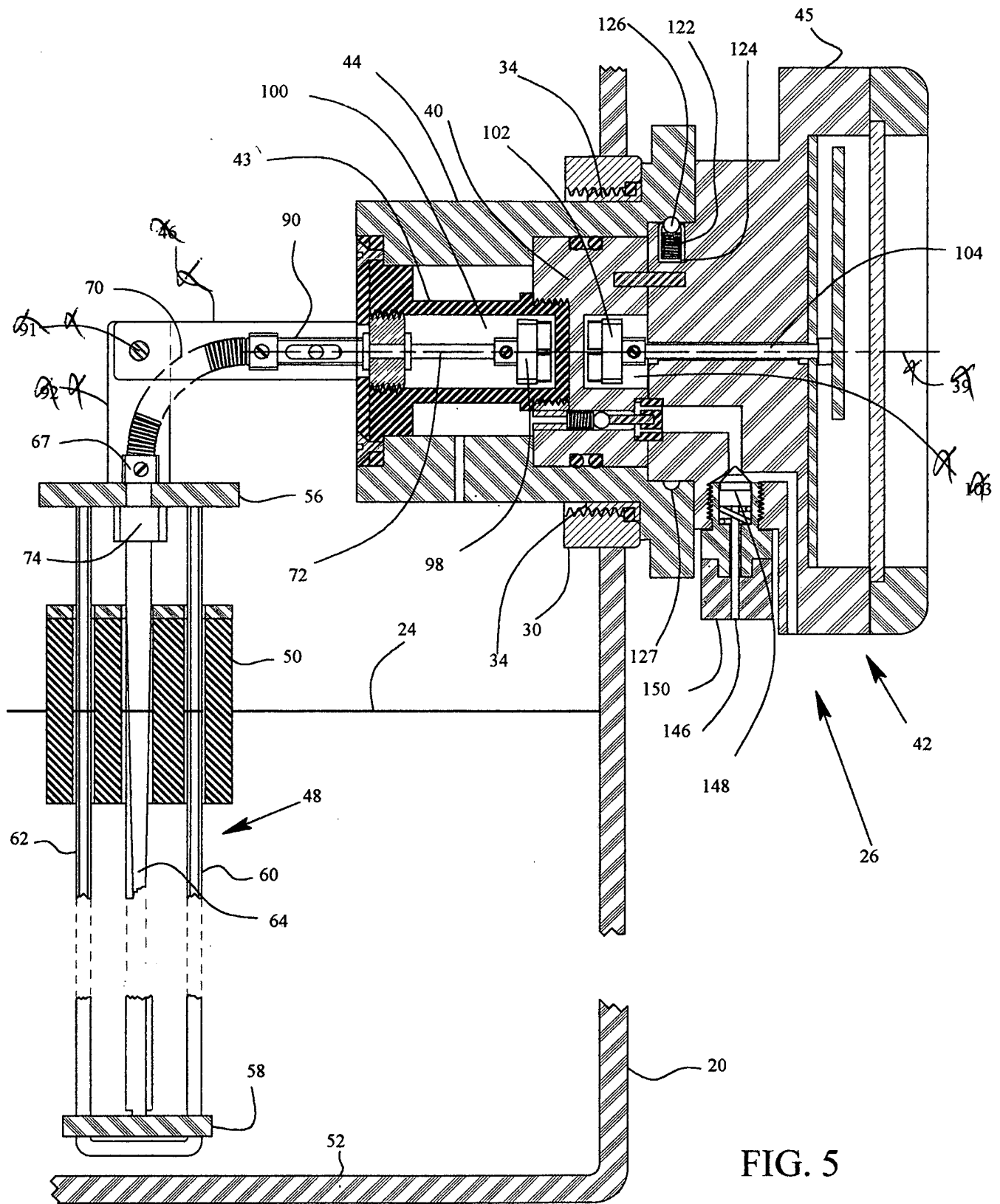


FIG. 4



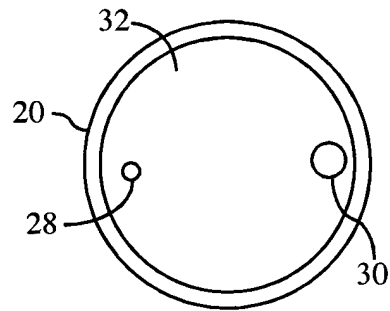


FIG. 6

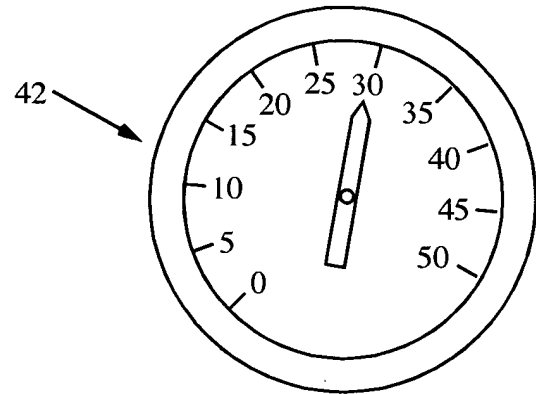


FIG. 7

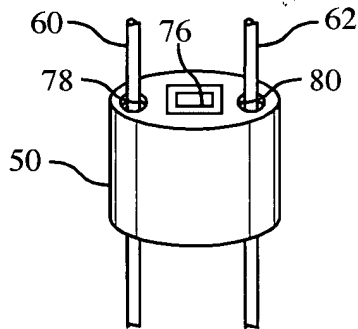


FIG. 8

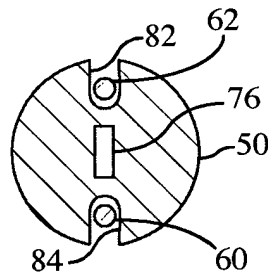


FIG. 9

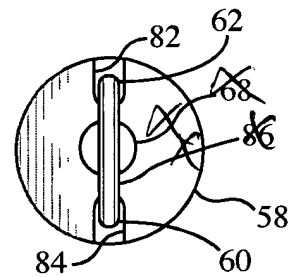


FIG. 10

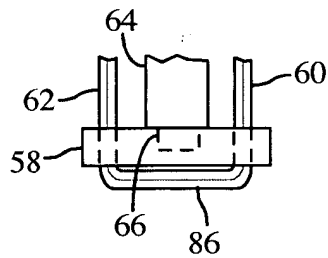


FIG. 11

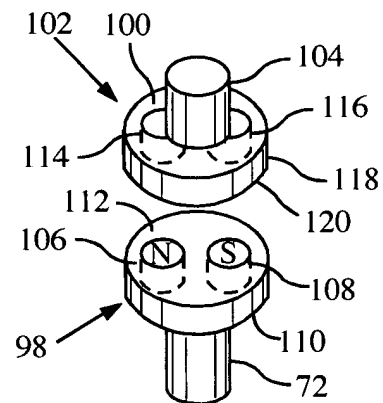


FIG. 12

